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American Art Journal.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1867.

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MUSIC OF THE WEEK.

MISS LIZZIE MERRIFIELD'S CONCERT.—Miss Lizzie Merrifield, who is a pupil of Signor Mauzocchi, made her debut at Irving Hall on the 16th inst., before a very large audience. She has a good appearance, and exhibited in her singing considerable culture. She possesses an excellent voice, dramatic in its quality, but we are of opinion that it has been over-forced, until it has become unnecessarily attenuated. Still it possesses good power and is pleasing in tone when not over-exerted. She sang the selections announced very intelligently, displaying a natural sentiment and no little fire. We should judge from what she sang, that her forte would be the dramatic, rather than the florid, and that in that line she could sustain a good position. To fully determine the scope of her powers, we must have opportunities of hearing her again, but we will state that on this occasion she met with unqualified public success.

Mlle. M. E. Toedt played two pieces with grace and sentiment, and her general execution exhibited both clearness and brilliance. She is indeed a rising artist, whose impulses seem all right, and who, by her enthusiasm and perseverance, is bound to make her mark at no distant period.

Signor Severini sang Gumbert's song, "Ye Merry Birds," with so much artistic intelligence, that he won an unanimous encore. He also sang his part in the duets allotted him in a very effective and spirited manner. Signor Randolphi fully sustains the favorable opinion we expressed on his first appearance. His voice is very beautiful, and he uses it with all the *elan* and judgment of an artist. He will surely become a popular and favorite singer with our public. Both his acquirements and his person are in his favor.

Mr. Alfred H. Pease played most admirably on this occasion. His touch has become more crisp and equal; he is more self-assured, and this gives him a fair chance to display his really brilliant executive facility, and his graceful and delicate manner. His own duets with Mr. Colby were successful in the highest degree, and fully deserved the hearty encores they received.

MR. WM. K. BASSFORD'S CONCERT AT HARLEM.—Mr. Wm. K. Bassford, the highly talented composer and pianist, gave a concert at Harlem on Tuesday evening, the 21st inst., assisted by Mrs. Julia A. Morris, Miss Nettie Stirling, Mr. L. P. Thatcher, Herr Hermann Trost, and Mr. I. B. Poznanski, Mr. C. H. Dib-

ble presiding at the piano, which was one of the loveliest Chickering grands that we ever heard. A large and elegant audience was present, and the performance seemed to give the liveliest satisfaction. Of the vocal artists who assisted, we need only say that they shared the applause of the public and won the honors of encore. We cannot, however, compliment them upon their concerted vocal efforts, which were disjointed, needed rehearsals and proper subordination of the voices to each other, and to the general effect.

Mr. I. B. Poznanski made a veritable and marked success on this occasion. He played Alard's "Anna Bolena" with much fervor and great brilliancy. Nothing can be more pure than his style; all that he does is done with exquisite grace and neatness, and in point of intonation he is entirely unimpeachable. He gained a unanimous encore, in response to which, he played in a delicious manner Gounod's "Meditation" on Bach's Prelude. His second selections were—No. 1, "Romance sans Paroles," a charming composition of his own, and No. 2, the ever amusing "Carnival de Venice." For the latter he was uproariously encored, and responded to the demand by playing his very clever national fantasia on "The Star Spangled Banner." Mr. Poznanski everywhere wields a strong control over his audiences. We remark, by the way, that he is falling somewhat into the habit, so common to violin players, of swaying from side to side, and gesticulating more than is necessary. He was entirely free from this, and should strive to keep so. We must again compliment his elegant Gemunder violin. It is a fine, sonorous beauty, and we doubt if any European maker could match it. All our violin players should follow Mr. Poznanski's example, and patronize Gemunder, for he is a genius in his art.

Mr. Wm. K. Bassford played tastefully and admirably; his touch is tender and limpid, and he has a fine sense of feeling and sentiment. Jaell's "Norma" fantasia displayed some fine points of sure and delicate execution, but in his own piece his best points were displayed. This piece is entitled "The Jealous Stream," illustrating, we imagine, the vain babbling brook vieing in its utterance with the sweet voice of the singing maiden. The story is deliciously told in passages of much beauty. The subject is treated with rare delicacy and tenderness of imagination. It is one of Mr. Bassford's most charming compositions, and justifies the cordial eulogies we have heretofore passed upon him as a composer. His execution was worthy of the composition, for despite of its quiet, dreamy character, the dual excellence was acknowledged by a hearty encore.

THE VARIAN-HOFFMAN AND STRINI COMBINATION.—These talented and popular artists

are now on a brief concert tour. They gave concerts during last week, with brilliant success, at the following places:—On Monday at Norwich; on Tuesday at Danbury; on Wednesday at Waterbury; on Thursday at New Britain; on Friday at Middletown, and on Saturday at New London. This week Mr. I. B. Poznanski joins them, and they give concerts every night in the principal places along the line of the Hudson river. Wherever they have appeared they have met with fine audiences, and the local press abounds with their praises.

SIGNOR MAZZOLENI'S FAREWELL CONCERT.—We announce with sincere regret that this admirable artist and courteous gentleman will take his farewell of New York next week. He leaves us to fulfill brilliant engagements in Europe, where we predict he will meet with a triumphant success. Voices such as his are rare now abroad, and he can make his own terms for engagements which will crowd upon him.

His farewell concert will be given at Irving Hall on Monday evening next, when he will be assisted by the following artists:

Madame M. Martinez, Signor Antonucci, Signor Orlandini, Signor Albano, Mr. J. N. Pattison, and Signor Rosa.

We hope that every patron of the opera will assist at this concert, to testify to the admiration and respect which his brilliant and conscientious services have always deserved from the public.

GRAND MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN JUNE.

Our readers will find in another column, a full schedule of the several performances which will comprise the great June Festival, commencing Monday, June 3d, and continuing every evening during the week, with a matinee on Wednesday and Friday, concluding with the *Stabat Mater*, on Sunday evening, June 9th. Mr. L. F. Harrison, who, as proprietor of Irving Hall, the most beautiful and the best hall for musical purposes in the city, was the most enterprising and the most popular manager in the city, has laid out a grand musical scheme, and has got together the most ample means to carry it out successfully.

This scheme, as will be seen by the schedule, which, by the by, is *not* an advertisement, for the ART JOURNAL is tabooed by the 14th street "ring" from the usual privileges and courtesies of the press, because it tells unpalatable truths, the scheme, as we have said, embraces the following works: Handel's "Messiah;" Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise;" a new "Forty sixth Psalm;" "Overture to Othello;" Haydn's "Creation;" an Orchestral Concert; Mendelssohn's "Elijah," and a miscellaneous concert. The matinees will of course be miscellaneous.